

# CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEAD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – PETER BECKFORD Dip TP, MRTPI

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Our Ref:



Nigel Moore, Senior Researcher  
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30<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Dear Mr Moore

## **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GYPSY AND TRAVELLER AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE NEEDS ASSESSMENT, AUGUST 2013**

I refer to the above Needs Assessment commissioned jointly with South Bucks District Council, Wycombe District Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council and completed by ORS Ltd on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

The Needs Assessment has now been published by all four authorities. My purpose for writing to you now is to clarify this Council's position on the Needs Assessment and to express Council reservations with ORS Ltd's conclusions.

Chiltern District Council commissioned the Needs Assessment with other Buckinghamshire district councils as part of its evidence base for its emerging Delivery Development Plan Document. The Council accepts that the commission has been completed and that the Needs Assessment represents ORS Ltd's professional view based on evidence and survey findings.

The Council has published the Needs Assessment as part of its evidence base however that does not mean that the Council fully accepts the Needs Assessments findings. The Council has concerns over the following ORS Ltd conclusions:

- a) That existing private vacant Gypsy and Traveller pitches and travelling showpeople plots should not be counted as part of the existing supply; and
- b) The assessed accommodation need for travelling showpeople arising within Chiltern District of 16 plots. The Council questions whether 13 plots of this assessment is a genuine need and as such whether this should be planned for within a Buckinghamshire context.

The Council will need to interpret the Needs Assessment evidence alongside all other relevant evidence and will be doing this as part of the preparation of the Delivery Development Plan Document and in working with other council's under the Duty to Co-operate.

I consider it important feedback to ORS Ltd and to record the Council's concerns on the Needs Assessment in an open and transparent way so that these concerns can inform the views of others, such as during the Council's public consultation on its Delivery Development Plan Document; Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Options Public Participation. This consultation runs from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013 to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013. I will be including a copy of this letter on the Council's website alongside the Needs Assessment.

Thank you and your colleagues for the work you have done on the Needs Assessment. Apart from the above concerns I consider that the Needs Assessment is a sound and robust assessment of Gypsy, Traveller and travelling showpeoples accommodation needs in Buckinghamshire.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Winwright  
Temporary Planning Policy Manager